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Good afternoon Chairman Casperson, members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide support testimony before you today regarding SB 169, legislation introduced by Senator Kowall seeking to set technology testing standards for autonomous vehicles for the State of Michigan. My name is Bruce Brownlee, and I am a Senior Executive Administrator at Toyota Technical Center based in Ann Arbor where over 1,000 engineers are engaged in the engineering and development of Toyota vehicles for our North American customers.

The concept of autonomously driven vehicles is quickly becoming a reality as a number of automobile and high-tech manufacturers work to develop the technology that will allow self-driven vehicles to operate safely and efficiently on roads all across the world. We are excited that companies in the United States lead in the development of this technology. On January 7th of this year, Toyota unveiled our Lexus Active Safety Technology Vehicle LS Sedan at the Consumer Electronics Show. This vehicle is a prototype vehicle developed by our engineering team in Ann Arbor through the Toyota Research Institute of North America. It is a vehicle with autonomous driving capabilities utilizing Toyota's Integrated Safety Management Concept. This means we integrate individual vehicle safety technologies such as Advanced Pre-Collision System (A-PCS), Lane Keeping Assist (LKA), Enhanced Blind Spot Monitor (BSM) and combine these collective technologies to achieve optimal driver support. We are dedicated to advancing our program to bring forward technologies that can decrease traffic accidents and provide drivers a safe driving experience.

As much as Toyota is dedicated to advancing our program, we are committed to safety in the process. SB 169 creates the framework for current and potential manufacturers of autonomous technologies to adequately research and test self-driving vehicle equipment on roads in Michigan and outlines the responsibilities of parties engaged in research and testing. Toyota appreciates this Committee's dedication to moving our industry forward, and we stand ready to serve as a resource to you. We understand that advancement of this technology will come through a process of building trust with society and government organizations, and legislation like this is a substantive and positive step in that direction.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express our support for SB 169. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Bruce Brownlee
Senior Executive Administrator
Toyota Technical Center
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